

IN THE CLAIMS:

45. (currently amended) A rear vision system suitable for use in a vehicle, the vehicle being equipped with a vehicle power supply providing a vehicle voltage and a vehicle current, said vehicle rear vision system comprising:

a rearview mirror unit having an electrochromic mirror, said electrochromic mirror including a front side and an opposing rear side;

~~said electrochromic mirror having a front and a rear;~~

an electrical circuit electrically connected to the vehicle power supply and to said electrochromic mirror, said electrical circuit including a resistive heating element fixedly secured to said opposing rear side disposed to the rear of said electrochromic mirror allowing and in thermal energy to transfer therebetween ~~contact therewith~~, said resistive heating element connected in electrical series with said electrochromic mirror, ~~and with the a-vehicle voltage~~ from the vehicle power supply being applied across said series connection of said heating element and said electrochromic mirror; and

a control element controlling the vehicle current passing through said series connection of said electrochromic mirror and said resistive heating element in order to control ~~device operatively connected with said electrochromic mirror applying a control voltage that is less than the vehicle voltage to said electrochromic mirror and~~ electrically control reflective controlling reflection properties thereof, said application of said control voltage to ~~of~~ said electrochromic mirror by allowing the vehicle current to pass causing an electrical current to flow through said resistive heating element to reduce the voltage powering said electrochromic mirror to less than about 2.5 volts and wherein the vehicle current passing through said resistive heating element is dissipated in the form of thermal energy to heat, heating ~~said electrochromic mirror.~~

46. (currently amended) The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 45; wherein said electrical circuit includes ~~control device comprises~~ a control transistor electrically connected between the vehicle power supply, said heating element and said electrochromic mirror, said transistor regulating the current passing through said electrochromic mirror.

47. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said electrical circuit control device has at least one light sensor generating a control signal in response to incident light flux and wherein said control element operates said transistor to control said voltage powering said electrochromic mirror control device generates said control voltage dependent upon said control signal.

48. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ rear vision system according to claim ~~47~~ 46, including wherein said control device has a pulse-width modulator that receives said control signal and converts said control signal into an analog control signal, said analog control signal being inputted to said ~~control transistor~~.

49. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said heating resistive element comprises at least one of a resistive coating, a heating resistor carried on a plastic foil, a spiral-shaped resistor and a serpentine-shaped resistor.

50. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said control element maintains said voltage across said electrochromic mirror is in the range of zero volts to 2.5 volts.

51. (cancelled)

52. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said control element maintains said voltage across said electrochromic mirror is in the range of zero volts to 1.5 volts.

53. (cancelled)

54. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said rearview mirror unit is one of an interior mirror unit and an exterior mirror unit.

55. (currently amended) The ~~vehiele~~ rear vision system according to claim 46, wherein said ~~control~~ transistor is connected in parallel with said electrochromic mirror.

56-68 (cancelled).